

## The 7-Fold 'Following Jesus' Statement

At the end of the day, I, as a follower of Jesus must own my responsibility for my journey with My Master: 'I am a follower of Jesus. Irrespective of what anyone else may do or say, I own MY journey in following Jesus. I am responsible. I also value being part of a community on mission, in which WE are helping each other and others on the Way. Yet, I am ultimately responsible for my own journey.'

Our EMCC national team has been the crucible for the development of guiding statements that empower the follower of Jesus. Here is the 7-fold way of Following Jesus

### Following Jesus

1. I have begun to follow Jesus, and am **depending on the Spirit** of Jesus in my journey.
2. I am **being sent** by Jesus to bless others and invite them to follow Him.
3. I am learning to be like Jesus in my **attitudes, behaviours, character**.
4. I am learning to **love God** and to **love others**.
5. I am learning the **teachings** of Jesus.
6. I am **helping someone** and someone is **helping me** to be a growing follower of Jesus.
7. I am participating in a **community** of followers of Jesus **on mission** to the world.

The seven statements are stated in the first person, 'I'. It is about ME following Jesus, Not about what somebody else tells me to do or does for me. The 7-fold Statement is about the ongoing journey. No one has arrived! And everyone can start, or restart. It is a journey. And He is still leading, and I must follow.

It is the responsibility of parents to raise and teach their children, and it is the responsibility of a follower of Jesus to invite and help others to begin that journey too. As parents we appreciate the support of school and church but we must not let either supplant us as parents. As a follower of Jesus I appreciate the support of the community of Christ, the Church, but I cannot let the Church supplant my following after Jesus. And I cannot let the Church supplant my responsibility and my privilege of inviting others to begin that journey with Jesus. There is no 'program' that is as powerful and as attractive as Christ in me and Christ in us the hope of glory. The Kingdom (the rule) of Christ becomes tangible when we simply bless (serve) others for His sake – humbly bringing good into His world. We know that God is already at work in the lives of others and so we simply join Him 'out there.' Jesus is sending me to bringing blessing into the lives of others for His sake.

The Church, the community of followers of Jesus, as the Bride of Christ, has the joy of pointing away from herself and to Jesus – 'Follow Him!' We can do and say a thing in a way that either disempowers or empowers. What we do corporately as the Church must always convey the message to a follower of Jesus, 'You can do it. We are just all on the same journey and we are offering a little help along the way. You follow Him, and we will, too.'

We can make the 7-fold paradigm shift as His Community as we follow hard after Him. It's good to know Him, to serve Him, to follow Him.

### Pastor Phil

His Mission – Our Mission

April 20, 2010